This episode of House was titled “Half-wit” it is about a 37 year old savant, he is a remarkably talented piano player, His name is Patrick. Patrick is mentally handicapped, his language is limited, and he repeats the last thing heard. Patrick suffers from seizures that are controlled by medication.

During a concert performance Patrick stumbles while performing, his father realizes something is wrong. Patrick’s fingers were weirdly shaped. House staff believes that a quick medication can fix the problems with the fingers. House wants to begin testing on Patrick. Results from testing shows Patrick’s right side of the brain was not allowing him to function properly. Patrick begins to have seizures more frequently. House asks Patrick if he is happy with his life. Patrick responds with what life? I like to play the piano.

House discovers by removing Patrick’s right side of the brain he will be able to function normally. Unfortunately he will not be able to play the piano. Patrick’s ability to play the piano was due to the bus accident he was in when he was ten years old. When Patrick’s father is told the news, states he will take care of Patrick and his seizures as long as he can play the piano. House becomes offensive, he calls Patrick a “monkey grinder in the circus” House tells pat ricks father he would be doing him a disservice if he didn’t put Patrick’s wellbeing ahead of being a piano player, to give him a chance at a normal life.

Patrick’s father speaks with Patrick he asks him are you happy? Patrick responds with are you happy? Patrick’s father decides to go through with the surgery. Once surgery is completed, Patrick can not speak right away House explains that speech pattern was located on the right side of the brain. The show ends with Patrick buttoning his shirt and smiling. Originally when the show began Patrick was not capable of buttoning his shirt he needed assistance from his father.

This episode from House was from season three. House is a doctor who he himself has a disability. House walks with the assistance of a cane. House was in a motorcycle accident that damaged the muscle in his leg and needed to be partially removed. I saw an interview with the creators of House and they stated House was originally meant to be in a wheelchair. The network ruled against this. It makes you wonder what the reasoning was behind the decision, if they felt it would be too stigmatizing.

This particular show was about a 37 year old man named Patrick who had brain damage. When the show began Patrick’s father is assisting him in getting dressed because of Patrick’s disability, Patrick’s language was limited and he repeated the last words said to him.

House at times can be inappropriate; he refers to Patrick as a moron not aware of what is going on around him. When discussing with Patrick’s father the alternative surgery house again refers to Patrick as a monkey grinder in a circus. This was a view of how people may perceive a mentally handicapped individual.

Even though House had some negative things to say about Patrick he was convinced this surgery would be helpful. I really appreciated the fact House and his staff worked hard to figure out what was actually wrong with Patrick. I wish more doctors and specialist would work that hard and not just give a diagnosis and a band-aid remedy.

It was sad to see Patrick being talked about negatively, but it showed the true side of dealing with someone with a disability, overall I enjoyed this episode and the happy ending outcome.